

2023



ENGAGE
GLOBALLY
IMPACT REPORT

WHO WE ARE

Engage Globally supports community-led sustainable development. Our local partners, in rural Northern Ghana, work with traditional leaders, women's groups, parents, and program participants from nine villages to choose priorities, design projects, and implement programming. Our team provides support including capacity building, funding, monitoring and evaluation, and strategic planning. By focusing on long-term partnerships, we pursue a truly grassroots and collaborative approach to creating meaningful, inclusive, and sustainable progress.

OUR MISSION: Engage Globally enables community-led sustainable development by engaging local partners in education, job training, small business development, food security, women's empowerment, and environmental conservation.

OUR VISION: We envision a world in which communities have the educational, economic, and environmental resources they need to develop equitably and sustainably.



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Two board members and I recently returned from an amazing visit with our partner communities in rural Northern Ghana. We were so impressed with the students and participants in our programs and the incredible leadership of our community-based partner, CRI. Positive impacts were apparent in every project and with every student. I loved meeting Haruna, a woman farmer, who proudly showed us the bags of rice she had grown and stored after participating in our women's agricultural program. The smile on her face, as she held out a handful of rice, was unforgettable (above right). Abiba (above left) brought me to tears as she described overcoming incredible barriers to reach 9th grade. She wants to continue on to college and become a midwife because she sees such a need for health education and care among women in her community. Then there was the joy of seeing hundreds of younger children as they learned from talented teachers who care about them and are very invested in their futures.

Reflecting on the impacts she observed, Board member Jessica shared:

“Seeing the results of the work firsthand, while knowing that the majority of these incredible leaders and all of our students live in homes with no running water or electricity filled me with both inspiration and urgency. Drinking water is still being collected from standing ponds. Resources remain scarce. However, every community CRI touches is filled with hope, possibility, and opportunity. I walked away from this trip believing in the strength of the human spirit and that generational change can happen with us, here and now, when we collaborate together.”

All these impacts were made possible by Engage Globally's generous community and by CRI's remarkably effective work. In 2024, with your help, we look forward to continuing to transform lives through sustainable development.

Heather

Heather Heckel, PhD, Executive Director, engage@engageglobally.org

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS



In 2023, our three community learning centers, including the newer Tahama Learning Center, educated 350 children ages four to eleven. These centers have many positive impacts including:

- A school lunch program that provides all students with nutritional meals.
- Serving as the only early childhood program in the area.
- Providing school uniforms and shoes.
- Employing 18 teachers, cooks, and staff, half of whom were graduates of our Youth Education Program and live in our partner communities. On average, each employee uses their income to support eight other family members.
- Utilizing a place-based bilingual curriculum that emphasizes local culture and environmental conservation.
- Diversifying students' education using outdoor, hands-on activities like school gardens, tree planting, and football (soccer).
- Strengthening community bonds through family engagement.



Five year old Ikimah is proud to help her family. She is in charge of sweeping their compound. She also loves reading, playing football, and her teacher, Madam Salma.



YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM



When children graduate from our Community Learning Centers, they have the opportunity to join our Youth Education Program (YEP). Students attend regional private schools and, if they pass entrance exams, public boarding high schools.

Building on our focus on quality and broadening choices, in 2023 we expanded this program with the following efforts:

- Created a girls club, pictured above, which held meetings to discuss women's health and educational opportunities. The 22 participating girls also had guest speakers, shared meals together, and received English language tutoring.
- Started a boys club, of 15 members, that chose to focus on English language learning and community service activities. Both clubs elected student leaders and selected their own priorities.
- Piloted a successful literacy project in which students in this program wrote 'about me' booklets to share their interests and goals.
- Significantly enhanced our documentation of this project, student learning, and student goals through guidance and training of the new Program Director, Suale, who is a graduate of this program.

2023 Enrollment

Total participants	67
Primary students in private schools	50
JHS students in private schools	10
SHS students in public schools	4
Attending university	3



In her about me project, third grader Amina shared, "In the future, I want to be a very special person and be useful to my community. I want to be a nurse."

VOCATIONAL TRAINING



Our vocational training program had many successes in 2023:

- Nine trainees are approaching the end of their second year of training and graduation in 2024.
- Five young women were placed as new trainees.
- Three vocational training meetings were held with guest speakers from women-owned small businesses.
- Three women who want to learn basket-weaving were able to travel to Bolga for an initial training in this cultural art (pictured above).
- Working to ensure long-term positive impacts, we expanded our small business development program by purchasing updated equipment for existing businesses and opening four new small businesses. Two new shops were constructed by graduates of our welding training.

“After graduation I want to open my own business. I can support my family through the income I earn. I can also teach others and make them skillful in dressmaking.”

Ayisha



2023 Enrollment:

Women	28
Men	12
Small businesses supported	8
Total	48

WOMEN'S AGRICULTURE



In 2023, we grew our women's agriculture project from five to twenty-one women. The farmers receive support with seeds, fertilizer, a professional agricultural trainer, and a rented tractor. The women especially appreciated plowing assistance, like Hawabu, pictured above, on her farmland. The outcomes were very positive, including:

- All of the women produced enough maize, rice, or groundnuts to feed their families, providing food security for over 200 people.
- Most earned about \$100 from the sale of surplus harvest, which is a significant income in a region where families live well below the global poverty line. In evaluation interviews, the women shared that they would use the income to send their children to school, provide healthcare to their families, purchase other foods, and save for emergencies.
- Several participants sold their rice surplus to our local partner, CRI, who will use it for the school lunch program.
- Many more women have requested to join in 2024.

This has been a very successful program in part because the women's group, of over 100 community members from six of our partner villages, designed the project and provides ongoing advice.

"I will reinvest the money into my farm to make it bigger and also take care of my children's school and healthcare needs."
Sharatu



"The program empowered me to become financially independent. The program has not only changed my life, but also my outlook on the future."
Fatimata



SMALL BUSINESS & COMMUNITY DONORS

In pursuit of organizational sustainability, we were excited to grow our small business and community partnerships this year!



KIND COTTON

Thank you to Kind Cotton for the wonderful donation of 100 African and environmental themed books to provide learning opportunities for students in our Community Learning Centers! Their business spreads kindness through the sale of consciously-sourced and impactful clothing with the goal of distributing one million inclusive books to kids.

GEORGETOWN ETHICS CLASS

Students in Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business MBA program take a required ethics course, called Ethical Leadership. During the class, student groups are given \$1,500 to use to “make the world a better place.” This fall, students chose to use their funds to purchase tablets and phones for Engage Globally. This technology will help teachers and staff document student progress and strengthen programming.



GUIDO'S HEART

In 2023, we welcomed Sandra Sohne to Engage Globally's Board. Sandra is from Ghana and founded Guido's Heart, a small business that sells Ghanaian baskets crafted by women in the Bolga region. Her company was inspired by her brother who dedicated his life to using technology to create development opportunities for Africans. In 2023, Sandra donated all of the profits of her basket sales to Engage Globally in support of our education programs!

FINANCE REPORT 2023

SUMMARY

Total Contributions	\$83,011
Programming Expenses	\$81,943
Operational Expenses	\$7,560
Amount spent from 2022 to 2023 carryover	\$6,492

We were excited to welcome three new members to our Board of Directors in 2023!



SANDRA SOHNE



SHAYA GREGORY
POKU



JESSICA MARDO

IN APPRECIATION

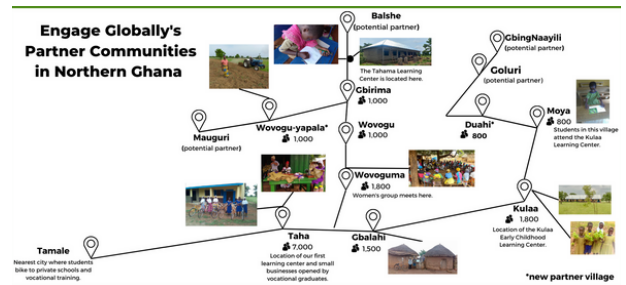
Engage Globally is grateful to have such a wonderful community of supporters who contribute to our work in Ghana. In 2023, we are sending special thanks to:

- The 2023 Engage Globally Board of Directors and Advisory Board
- Our 2023 interns
- Company supporters including Gartner, AXIS, and Happily Ever Exploring
- WIL of Philadelphia
- Action Africa Giving Circle
- Anonymous Family Foundations
- Annual and monthly donors who enable us to budget effectively with recurring gifts

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024

TRAVEL TO GHANA:

In January 2024, Heather (Executive Director), Jess (Board of Directors), and Jena (Advisory Board) traveled to Ghana. The trip was designed to assess our programs' progress, to meet with representatives of our three new village partners, and to learn from the CRI team about their future priorities. We were also excited to bring many donated supplies.



NEW VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER:

Many young people, who have never been able to attend school, would like to join our vocational program.

We hope to:

- Construct and open the first Vocational Training Center in this region.
- Open four small businesses owned by program graduates to conduct training.
- Provide youth, ages 12 to 15, with training in sewing, weaving, or construction in the mornings and literacy education in the afternoons.



NEW COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER:

Duahi, a new village partner, is more rural than any village we have worked with before. We believe no resident of Duahi has ever had the opportunity to attend school. The chief and elders have recently given us a large piece of beautiful land to build our fourth Community Learning Center. They are eager to have their over 500 children attend school. Opening a Community Learning Center for Duahi will create opportunities and transform lives for children like four-year-old Mariam, pictured right.



ENGAGE WITH US IN 2024

HELP US GROW OUR COMMUNITY!

- **Like and follow** Engage Globally on social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Share our work with others who are interested in global sustainable development, education, women's empowerment, and environmental conservation.
- **Volunteer!** Engage Globally collaborates with short-term virtual volunteers who support a variety of projects.
- **Invite** an Engage Globally team member to be a guest speaker for your community. We can share our work, discuss environmental conservation, or present on community-led sustainable development.
- **Join our team!** Apply for our internship program or to serve on our Advisory Board or Board of Directors.
- **Let's connect!** If you work with a business or community group that might like to collaborate with us or support our projects, please reach out for more information.
- **Donate your birthday** to support our programs in 2024.
- **Share your suggestions** about how we can better engage with our supporters!



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